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Friday, November 6, 2009 at 10:04PM

The Lifelong Learning Toolbelt continued ...

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The premise of my presentation is an argument to refocus professional development on learning how to learn with technology. The vast majority of professional development focused on technology is focused on creating a product, i.e. movies, podcasts, documents, etc. Until education seriously believes in technology as more than a tool, we will continue to implement weak initiatives and see vast amounts of professional development money wasted. Too often, professional development models focus on technology initiatives that do not encourage the highest goal of learning and that is, "Lifelong Learning". As Kim Cofino stated, "It's Not Just a Tool, Technology As Environment". I try to walk through my thoughts on my "Lifelong Learning Tool Belt" and then briefly explain how to create your own tool belt.

Project(SM)

1. SMeech's Presentations
2. I Education Apps Review
3. Techlearning.com Blog
4. Johns Hopkins University - ISTE Leadership Program
5. The Ed Revolution - Postponed

(SM)emberships

(SM)earch

(SM)obile

Mobile version

Twitter
Delicious
StumbleUpon
Digg
YouTube
Flickr
Google Talk
LinkedIn
Facebook
Plurk
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Vimeo
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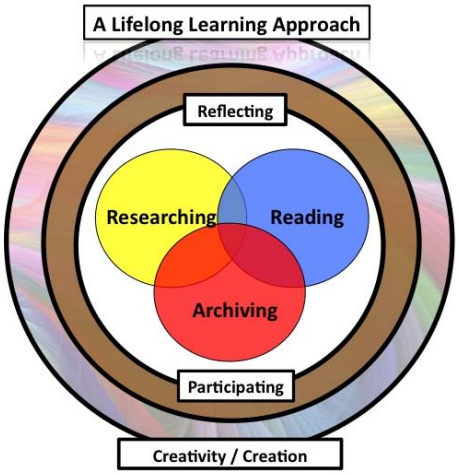

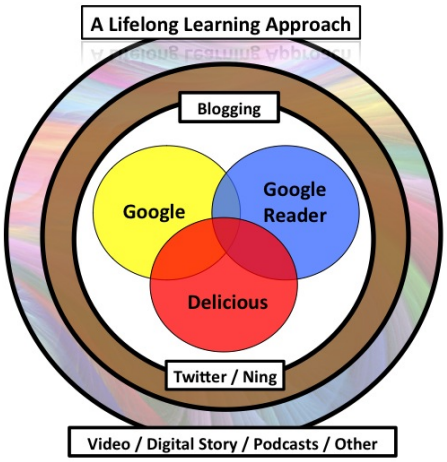

Meaning of the Areas:

1. Researching: Begin with learning how to find good resources, judge their merit, and reflect on their value as you continue to use the resource.
2. Reading: Gather your research and continually follow the quality work from those that teach you well.
3. Archiving: Save and share the best resources for your work.
4. Reflecting: Write or record your thoughts on your learning experiences.
5. Participate: Join the conversation. Start slowly by listening and then jump into the discussion.
6. Finally, worry about what you think you should be creating or different creative uses of technology. We focus too much on what we want to do with technology and we don't focus enough on how that technology can help us learn.

Image and Color Scheme:

1. Primary colors are chosen to represent the core skills of the learning tool belt.
2. Each of the areas overlaps and is not independent of each other. You archive along with reading and you gain new resources through use of your reading, archiving and participation.
    - Example: Delicious is an archiving tool and can also be a research tool.
    - Example: I will mind Twitter along with using Google Search and my network of

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Blog Roll

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Change.org's Education Blog

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Durff's Blog

Edtechapalooza

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Generation YES Blog

iLearn Technology

Infinite Thinking Machine

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January 2007 (4)
December 2006 (12)
November 2006 (6)
March 2006 (2)
February 2006 (2)
January 2006 (1)
December 2005 (2)
November 2005 (3)
August 2005 (1)
April 2005 (1)
March 2005 (12)
February 2005 (21)
January 2005 (40)
December 2004 (2)
February 2004 (3)

Colleagues (1)

Delicious users.

3. The primary colors blend into brown that is where you mix your core skills with the learning community at large.
4. The outer ring is rainbow in colors because your level of creativity and thought can grow exponentially when you utilize the entire tool belt.

Tools: These happen to be the top tools (as of 11/2009) in these areas but they are replaceable.

1. Search: Google
2. Reader: RSS Feed Reader - Google Reader
3. Archiving: Delicious
4. Reflecting: Blogger.com
5. Participating: Twitter and NING

My Personal Choice of Tools:

1. Search: Delicious
2. Reader: Google Reader
3. Archiving: Simplybox
4. Reflecting: Squarespace - Paid app that is Pricey!
5. Participating: Twitter and NING

Scott Meech | in Educational Thoughts, Presentations | tagged Life Long Learning, Techforum, presentation

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Reader Comments (3)

You seem to be very technologically savvy. I am currently using a free weebly website for my classroom, but am stuck with some of the constraints. I cannot include videos, sound clips, and cannot store larger files on the site. I am looking to include videothreads, powerpoints with narration, and podcasts. What do you think is my best option. Should I also create a blog at blogspot and store materials there or should I use a site like Postereon to store all of my information.

November 8, 2009 | Brian

Hi Brian ... Feel free to email me at scott@smeech.net to get more information. I would like to keep the comments here specifically to the Lifelong Learning Tool Belt. I am always happy to help out!

November 9, 2009 | Scott Meech

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Learning in Hand
Learning Is Messy - Blog
Leslie Fisher's Blog
Metanoia
Metanoia
Moving at the Speed of Creativity
Practical Theory
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Scott.
I like the visuals. You have very good points about the importance of life long learning. This conversation is a very important one. I believe that every professional educator should be leveraging the learning opportunities available through the technology tools. How to convert this to professional practice is where I struggle. I look forward to future posts about your take on this. Thanks as always for stretching my thinking!

November 15, 2009 | Meg Ormiston

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